



Unions in Wisconsin sue to reverse collective bargaining restrictions on teachers, others

By Scott Bauer
Associated Press

(AP) - Seven unions representing teachers and other public workers in Wisconsin filed a lawsuit Thursday attempting to end the state's near-total ban on collective bargaining for most public employees.

The 2011 law, known as Act 10, has withstood numerous legal challenges over the past dozen years and was the signature legislative achievement of former Republican Gov. Scott Walker, who used it to mount a presidential run.

The latest lawsuit is the first since the Wisconsin Supreme Court flipped to liberal control in August. But it was filed in a county circuit court — unlike other major cases that have gone directly to the Supreme Court since its ideological shift — and will likely take more than a year to make its way up for a final ruling.



A crowd fills the Wisconsin Capitol rotunda on the fifth day of labor demonstrations, Feb. 16, 2011, in Madison, Wis.

(Craig Schreiner/Wisconsin State Journal via AP, File)

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Unions in Wisconsin sue to reverse collective bargaining restrictions on teachers, others

Continued from Front

The Act 10 law effectively ended collective bargaining for most public unions by allowing them to bargain solely over base wage increases no greater than inflation. It also disallowed the automatic withdrawal of union dues, required annual recertification votes for unions, and forced public workers to pay more for health insurance and retirement benefits.

The law's introduction in 2011 spurred massive protests that stretched on for weeks. It made Wisconsin the center of a national fight over union rights; catapulted Walker onto the national stage; sparked an unsuccessful recall campaign, and laid the groundwork for his failed 2016 presidential bid. The law's adoption led to a dramatic decrease in union membership across the state. The lawsuit filed by the teachers and other public workers on Thursday alleges that Act 10's exemption



A crowd fills the Wisconsin Capitol rotunda on the fifth day of labor demonstrations, Feb. 16, 2011, in Madison, Wis. (Craig Schreiner/Wisconsin State Journal via AP, File)

of some police, firefighters and other public safety workers from the bargaining restrictions violates the Wisconsin Constitution's equal protection guarantee. The complaint notes that those exempted from the restrictions endorsed Walker in the 2010 gubernatorial election, while those subject to the restrictions did not.

A similar argument was made in a federal lawsuit alleging that Act 10 violated the equal protection

guarantee in the U.S. Constitution. But a federal appeals court in 2013 said the state was free to draw a line between public safety and other unions, and the following year again ruled that the law was constitutional.

The Wisconsin Supreme Court in 2014 also upheld the law as constitutional, rejecting a lawsuit brought by teachers and Milwaukee public workers. That case raised different arguments than the current law-

suit. And in 2019, a federal judge rejected a lawsuit brought by two arms of the International Union of Operating Engineers that argued the law violates free speech and free association under the First Amendment.

The Wisconsin courts should follow the lead of the Missouri Supreme Court, which struck down a law resembling Act 10 in 2021 based on similar arguments, union attorney Jacob Karabell said in a written statement. If the case reaches the Wisconsin Supreme Court, it's unclear who would actually hear it.

Justice Janet Protasiewicz, whose win this year tilted majority control of the court 4-3 in favor of liberals, said during the campaign that she believes Act 10 is unconstitutional. She also told the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel that she would consider recusing herself from any case challenging the law. Protasiewicz participated in protests against the law and signed the petition to

recall Walker. If she were to recuse herself, the court would be evenly divided 3-3 between conservative and liberal justices.

If the latest lawsuit in Wisconsin is successful, all public sector workers who lost their collective bargaining power would have it restored.

They would be treated the same as the police, firefighter and other public safety unions who remain exempt.

"The end of Act 10 would mean that we would have a real say again in our retirement plans, health care and time off — without the threat of loss of our union every year," Wayne Rasmussen, who works for the Racine Unified School District, said in a statement. Rasmussen is one of three individuals named in the lawsuit along with the unions.

He is vice president of the Service Employees International Union of Wisconsin, which represents health care workers and others. □



Former President Donald Trump speaks outside the courtroom after testifying at New York Supreme Court, Monday, Nov. 6, 2023, in New York.

(AP Photo/Eduardo Munoz Alvarez)

By Jennifer Peltz and Michael R. Sisak
Associated Press
NEW YORK (AP) — A New

York appeals court Thursday reinstated a gag order that barred Donald Trump from commenting about

An appeals court reinstates gag order that barred Trump from maligning court staff in NY fraud trial

court personnel after the former president repeatedly disparaged a law clerk in his New York civil fraud trial. The one-sentence decision came two weeks after an individual appellate judge put the gag order on hold while the appeals process played out.

Trial judge Arthur Engoron, who imposed the restriction, said he now planned to enforce it "rigorously and vigorously." Trump attorney Christopher

Kise called it "a tragic day for the rule of law." Steven Cheung, a spokesperson for Trump's 2024 presidential campaign, complained that the gag order was "nothing but attempted election interference, which is failing terribly." Engoron imposed the gag order Oct. 3 after Trump posted a derogatory comment about the judge's law clerk to social media. The post, which included a baseless allegation about the clerk's

personal life, came the second day of the trial in New York Attorney General Letitia James' lawsuit.

James' lawsuit alleges Trump exaggerated his wealth on financial statements used to secure loans and make deals. Trump denies any wrongdoing.

The Republican 2024 front-runner contends the lawsuit is a political attack instigated by James and furthered by Engoron, both Democrats. □

House passes resolution to block Iran's access to \$6 billion from prisoner swap

By Farnoush Amiri
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House passed a bipartisan measure Thursday that would block Iran from ever accessing the \$6 billion recently transferred by the U.S. in a prisoner swap, a step Republicans pushed in response to the nation's alleged role in the deadly attacks last month by Hamas on Israel.

The measure — titled the No Funds for Iranian Terrorism Act — passed 307-119 as Republicans sought to hold the Biden administration accountable for what they call their complicity in funding Iranian-backed terrorism in the Middle East.

"With such instability in the region, the last thing we need to do is to give access to \$6 billion to be diverted to more Iranian-sponsored terrorism," Rep. Michael McCaul, the Republican chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, said during a debate. U.S. officials have rebuffed this criticism, noting that not a single dollar has yet to be made available to Iran and insisting that when it is, it can only be used for humanitarian needs.

Republican critics like McCaul say that despite the money being restricted to

aid, it is fungible, and could free up other funds for Tehran to provide support to Hamas like they believe it did before it attacked Israel in early October.

The U.S. and Iran reached the tentative agreement in August that eventually saw the release of five detained Americans in Tehran and an unknown number of Iranians imprisoned in the U.S. after billions of dollars in frozen Iranian assets were transferred from banks in South Korea to Qatar. But days after the Oct. 7 attack

by Hamas, the U.S. and Qatar agreed that Iran would not be able to access the money in the meantime, with officials stopping short of a full refreezing of the funds.

The GOP-backed resolution, which now goes to the Senate where it is unlikely to be supported by the Democratic majority, would impose new sanctions on the funds to prevent the transfer of any monies to Iran. It also threatens to sanction any government or individual involved in processing

the transfer of the funds. Several Democrats who opposed the measure defended the Biden administration's decision to transfer the money in exchange for American hostages, especially in light of the American hostages now being kept by Hamas in Gaza.

"Iran, of course, as Hamas, is a murderous and corrupt regime. They're not pleasant. And this isn't easy," Rep. Gregory Meeks, the top Democrat on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, said during the floor

debate. "But thanks to this agreement, five American families are now home again."

He added, "And Iran has lost the leverage of holding these American hostages." The complex deal between Washington and Tehran came together over the summer after months of indirect negotiations between U.S. and Iranian officials. But the beginning of the war between Israel and Hamas has inflamed criticism of the deal as Iran has historically maintained strong ties with both Hamas and the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah.

High-ranking U.S. officials have sought to defend the decision to negotiate with Iran despite its track record of supporting terrorism against the U.S. and its allies. But officials have also conceded that Iran's influence over the various militant groups is undeniable.

"Hamas wouldn't be around in the way that it is without the support that it's received from Iran over the years," Secretary of State Antony Blinken said during interviews after the attack. But he acknowledged that "we have not yet seen evidence that Iran directed or was behind this particular attack." □



An Iranian domestically built missile is displayed in front of the portrait of the Lebanese Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah during a rally of Iran's Basij paramilitary force in support of the Palestinians in Tehran, Iran, Friday, Nov. 24, 2023.

(AP Photo/Vahid Salemi)

US prosecutors say plots to assassinate Sikh leaders were part of a campaign of planned killings

By Larry Neumeister
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A foiled plot to assassinate a prominent Sikh separatist leader in New York, just days after another activist's killing, was meant to precede a string of other politically motivated murders in the United States and Canada, according to U.S. prosecutors. In electronic communications and audio and video calls secretly recorded or obtained by U.S. law enforcement, organizers of the plot talked last spring

about plans to kill someone in California and at least three other people in Canada, in addition to the victim in New York, according to an indictment unsealed Wednesday.

The goal was to kill at least four people in the two countries by June 29, and then more after that, prosecutors contend.

After Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a Sikh activist who had been exiled from India, was shot and killed outside a cultural center in Surrey, British Columbia, on

June 18, one of the men charged with orchestrating the planned assassinations told a person he had hired as a hitman that he should act urgently to kill another activist, Gurpatwant Singh Pannun.

"We have so many targets," Nikhil Gupta said in a recorded audio call, according to the indictment. "We have so many targets. But the good news is this, the good news is this: Now no need to wait."

He urged the hitman to act quickly because Pannun,



Sikh separatist leader Gurpatwant Singh Pannun is pictured in his office on Wednesday, Nov. 29, 2023, in New York. U.S.

(AP Photo/Ted Shaffrey)

a U.S. citizen living in New York, would likely be more cautious after Nijjar's slaying.

"We got the go-ahead to go anytime, even today, tomorrow — as early as

possible," he told a go-between as he instructed the hitman to kill Pannun even if there were other people with him. "Put everyone down," he said, according to the indictment. □

Don't eat pre-cut cantaloupe if the source is unknown, CDC says, as deadly salmonella outbreak grows



Cantaloupes are displayed for sale in Virginia on July 28, 2017. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Thursday, Nov. 30, 2023, said it was advising people to stop eating pre-cut cantaloupe if they don't know where it came from due to a deadly outbreak of salmonella poisoning that continues to grow.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite, File)

By Jonel Aleccia
Associated Press

(AP) - Consumers shouldn't eat pre-cut cantaloupe if they don't know the source, U.S. health officials said Thursday, as the number of illnesses and recalls tied to a deadly salmonella outbreak grows.

At least 117 people in 34 U.S. states have been sickened by contaminated cantaloupe, including 61 who were hospitalized and two who died, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Another 63 illnesses, 17 hospitalizations and one death tied to the same outbreak have been reported in Canada. The illnesses are severe, with more than half of infected people hospitalized, including residents of long-term care centers and children in day care, the CDC said. Previous recalls of whole and pre-cut cantaloupes have been expanded to include Kwik Trip markets, Bix Produce and distributor GHGA, which sent recalled products to Kroger, Sprouts Farmer's Markets and Trader Joe's stores in several states, according to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Because of the scope of the recalls and potential uncertainty about the source of the cantaloupe, health officials warned consumers to be cautious.

"If you cannot tell if your cantaloupe, including pre-cut cantaloupe or products containing pre-cut cantaloupe is part of the recall, do not eat or use it and throw it away," the FDA said in a statement.

The number of people sickened is likely much higher than what's been reported, and the outbreak may not be limited to states with known illnesses. It typically takes three to four weeks to determine whether a sick person is part of an outbreak.

Most people infected with salmonella develop diarrhea, fever and stomach cramps within six hours to six days after consuming contaminated food. Illnesses typically last four to seven days. Vulnerable people, including children, people older than 65 and those with weakened immune systems may develop severe illnesses from the bacteria that require medical care or hospitalization. □



Attorney Cliff Johnson, director of the Roderick and Solange MacArthur Justice Center, speaks during a hearing, May 10, 2023, in Hinds County Chancery Court in Jackson, Miss.

(AP Photo/Rogelio V. Solis)

Infrequent grand juries can mean long pretrial waits in jail in Mississippi, survey shows

By Emily Wagster Pettus
Associated Press

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) —

Most people in Mississippi's county jails have been locked up at least three months without formal charges while waiting to go on trial. Some have longer wait times because two-thirds of the counties only convene grand juries two or three times a year, according to a survey released Thursday by a group that tracks justice issues. Mississippi does not require consistency among the 82 counties about how often grand juries meet to consider indictments — the formal charging documents needed to send a case to trial.

"If you get arrested in one of these counties where grand juries seldom meet, you can wind up in jail for months or even years just waiting to be indicted, and you will spend more time behind bars simply because of geographic misfortune," said Cliff Johnson, an attorney who is director of the Roderick and Solange MacArthur Justice Center at the University of Mississippi School of Law. Starting during the summer, law students and staff at the center spent several weeks issuing more than 100 public records requests and calling the offices of district attorneys and court

clerks to gather information about the frequency of grand jury sessions.

In releasing the survey results, Johnson said Mississippi should join most other states in limiting how long prosecutors can delay seeking indictments. Mississippi, Alabama, Massachusetts, Oklahoma, and Virginia are the only states with no time limit on how long a person can be jailed without being indicted, he said.

If a county in Mississippi convenes grand juries in January and July, a person arrested in February could be jailed for months if they are denied bond or can't afford to post bond to be released, Johnson said. Then if an officer goes on vacation while a grand jury is meeting, the district attorney could delay consideration of a case until the next grand jury session months later, he said, and there's no limit on how many times a case can be delayed.

Sometimes, grand juries choose not to issue indictments if evidence is weak. Johnson said jails do not track how many people are detained and then released in such cases. Being stuck in jail can quickly destabilize lives.

"You lose your job, lose your car, lose your house, you get behind on child

support," Johnson said. "Your life begins to spiral."

Mississippi legislators have killed proposals to require a statewide database of who is in county jails and information about their race, what charges they are facing and whether they have been indicted. The MacArthur Center has been trying to track that information for years, but Johnson said it's difficult to get consistent information from sheriffs.

The new survey did not track the race of people in county jails, Johnson said. But, data from the Mississippi Department of Corrections shows that about 63% of people in prisons for felony convictions are Black, in a state where about 38% of residents are Black.

Because of the nature of poverty and policing in Mississippi, Black and brown people are more likely to remain in jail as they wait for grand juries to consider indictments, Johnson said. The survey found nearly 5,400 people were in Mississippi's county jails — although Johnson said the number could be higher because jail population is notoriously difficult to track. The survey also found 2,683 pretrial detainees had been jailed longer than 90 days, more than 1,100 had been jailed at least nine months, and 747 had been jailed more than a year. □

Members of global chemical weapons watchdog vote to keep Syria from getting poison gas materials

Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands

(AP) — The annual meeting of member states of the global chemical weapons watchdog on Thursday called on countries to prevent the sale or transfer to Syria of raw materials and equipment that could be used to create poison gas and nerve agents.

The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons said in a statement that its annual conference “decided that the continued possession and use of chemical weapons” by Syria, and its failure to give the organization an accurate inventory of its stocks and to “destroy undeclared chemical weapons and production facilities,” have harmed the international Chemical Weapons Convention.

The decision was backed by 69 nations, while 10 voted against it and 45 nations abstained.



Syrians walk through destruction in the town of Douma, the site of a suspected chemical weapons attack, near Damascus, Syria, on April 16, 2018.

(AP Photo/Hassan Ammar, File)

It calls on member states to take measures to “prevent the direct or indirect transfer to Syria of certain chemical precursors, dual-use chemical manufacturing

facilities and equipment and related technology.” Syria joined the OPCW in 2013 to ward off the threat of airstrikes in response to a chemical attack on the

outskirts of the country’s capital.

Damascus denies using chemical weapons. However, an investigative team at the OPCW that seeks to

identify forces responsible for using chemical weapons has found evidence indicating repeated use of chemical weapons by Syria in the country’s grinding civil war.

Other member nations of the Hague-based OPCW suspended Damascus’ voting rights at the organization in 2021 over the attacks. In August, U.N. deputy disarmament chief Adedeji Ebo told the Security Council that Syria had failed to provide the OPCW with a full accounting of its program, citing “gaps, inconsistencies and discrepancies” in its declaration to the organization.

Thursday’s decision also calls on the organization’s members to “provide support and assistance in connection with criminal investigations or criminal proceedings to national and international accountability efforts,” the OPCW said. □

Coup leader Guy Philippe repatriated to Haiti as many question his next role in country in upheaval

By Evans Sanon and

Danica Coto

Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)

— Notorious coup leader Guy Philippe returned to Haiti on Thursday after the U.S. government repatriated him, sparking concerns that his presence could unleash further upheaval in a country already reeling from gang violence and political instability.

It wasn’t clear what role, if any, Philippe expected to play upon his return to Haiti, which is under siege by gangs that grew extremely powerful in the political vacuum created by the July 2021 assassination of President Jovenel Moïse. Philippe was a charismatic leader who was instrumental in the 2004 rebellion against former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and had powerful ties to police, politicians and the business elite, said Robert Fatton, a

Haitian politics expert and professor at the University of Virginia.

“Whether those kinds of ties will be revised, it’s not clear. What is very clear is that Guy Philippe has always seen himself as some sort of a messianic figure who should lead Haiti,” Fatton said.

Philippe’s attorney, Jean Joseph Louicher, confirmed to The Associated Press that Philippe arrived in the capital of Port-au-Prince on Thursday morning.

“We’ve been fighting for four years to reduce the sentence of Guy Philippe to bring him home,” he said, referring to a money laundering charge he pleaded guilty to in the U.S.

Louicher said he was waiting for Philippe to be processed as required by protocol and released by Haitian authorities and migration officials “so he can go home safely to his family today.”

Philippe, who was dressed in a gray jumpsuit, was seen walking into Haiti’s National Police station as he held up a hand to greet a small group of supporters yelling, “Our father!” Hours later, he remained inside. Police who were not authorized to talk to the media told The Associated Press that Philippe had an outstanding warrant stemming from a 2016 fatal attack on a police station in the southwest coastal city of Les Cayes. It was not clear if Philippe was detained.

He could not be immediately reached for comment, and his attorney said he hadn’t been granted access to the police station where Philippe was taken. Philippe once served as police chief for the northern coastal city of Cap-Haitien and was later accused of masterminding attacks on police stations and other targets while in exile in the Dominican Republic.



Guy Philippe smiles during an interview in Pestel, Haiti, Aug. 24, 2016. Philippe returned to Haiti on Thursday, Nov. 30, 2023, after the U.S. government deported him.

(AP Photo/Dieu Nalio Chery, File)

He returned to Haiti in 2004 and led a band of rebels that captured Cap-Haitien as he joined an uprising that led to the ouster of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Philippe was arrested in Haiti in January 2017 while participating in a live radio talk show. He had recently been elected to Haiti’s Senate, and authorities whisked

him quickly to the airport to avoid potential riots protesting his extradition to the U.S. The former rebel leader was nabbed after years of successfully eluding arrest and failed raids on his remote home in Haiti’s western coastal region that involved U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration agents and helicopters. □

Japan suspends its Osprey flights after the fatal crash of a US Air Force aircraft



Japanese coast guard members pick up a floating object as they conduct search and rescue operation in the waters off Yakushima Island, Kagoshima prefecture, southern Japan Thursday, Nov. 30, 2023.

By Mari Yamaguchi and Tara Copp
Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Japan suspended flights by its Osprey aircraft Thursday, officials said, the day after a U.S. Air Force Osprey based in Japan crashed into the sea during a training mission. Tokyo said it also asked the U.S. military to ground all Ospreys operating in Japan except for those joining the search operations at the crash site. At least one of the eight crew members aboard was killed, but the status of the others was not yet known. But the Pentagon said U.S. Ospreys continue to operate out of Japan. The deputy press secretary, Sabrina Singh, said she was not aware of an official request from Japan to freeze Osprey flights. A senior defense ministry official, Taro Yamato, told a parliamentary hearing that Japan has suspended flights of Ospreys until details of the crash and safety are confirmed. The cause of Wednesday's crash was not yet known.

The U.S.-made Osprey is a hybrid aircraft that takes off and lands like a helicopter but can rotate its propellers forward and cruise much faster, like an airplane, during flight. Ministry officials said a

planned training flight Thursday at the Metabaru army camp in the Saga prefecture in southern Japan was canceled as part of the grounding of all 14 Japanese-owned Ospreys deployed at Japan's Ground Self-Defense Force bases. "The occurrence of such a major accident causes great anxiety to the people of the region and it is truly regrettable," Defense Minister Minoru Kihara said in a parliamentary hearing Thursday. "We have requested the U.S. side to conduct flights of Ospreys deployed in Japan after their flight safety is confirmed," he said. His language was vague and did not clearly say that all Ospreys should be stood down.

Defense officials said they hoped the U.S. side got the message, but NHK national television said a number of Ospreys flew in and out of a U.S. air base on Okinawa. One U.S. Osprey has joined the rescue operation off Japan's southern coast, defense officials said. A U.S. defense official said if there was a pause in flights, it could also be to allow the small Air Force Special Operations Command community in Japan time to process its unit's crash, the official said. The

official spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive details about the crash.

The coast guard, as well as Japanese troops, searched through the night, and on Thursday the coast guard started using sonar to search underwater for the broken aircraft, which might have sunk to the sea bottom, at a depth of about 30 meters (100 feet). Ospreys have had a number of crashes, including in Japan, where they are used at U.S. and Japanese military bases, and the latest crash rekindles safety concerns and controversy over the deployment in Japan. In Okinawa, where about half of the 50,000 American troops are based, Gov. Denny Tamaki had said he would ask the U.S. military to suspend all Osprey flights in Japan.

On Thursday, Japanese Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa met with U.S. Ambassador to Japan Rahm Emanuel at her ministry, asking the United States "to promptly provide information to the Japanese side." Emanuel said the focus now is the search for the missing crew members and he thanked Japanese troops, coast guard and local fishermen for "being side by side." □

(Kyodo News via AP)



Nicaragua's President Daniel Ortega poses for a photo during the ALBA Summit at the Palace of the Revolution in Havana, Cuba, Tuesday, Dec. 14, 2021.

(Adalberto Roque, Pool Photo via AP, file)

A new study says about half of Nicaragua's population wants to emigrate

By Gabriela Selser
Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Lawyer Isabel Lazo's jobs are being systematically canceled by Nicaragua's increasingly repressive government.

Lazo worked at a university before the government of President Daniel Ortega closed it. She now is employed at a nongovernmental organization that she fears will soon be shuttered too.

Nicaragua's poisonous mix of economic decline and repression has led to about half of the country's population of 6.2 million saying they want to leave their homeland, according to a new study, and 23% saying they had contemplated the possibility deeply enough to consider themselves "very prepared" to emigrate.

"A large proportion of them have already taken concrete steps to try to get out," said Elizabeth Zechmeister, the director of the AmericasBarometer study "The Pulse of Democracy in the Americas."


The study, which was released on Wednesday, shows that the number of Nicaraguans wanting to leave rose from 35% five years ago to almost half today, and that about 32% of people in 26 Latin American countries surveyed say they want to migrate.

Lazo, 42, and her husband Guillermo Lazo, 52, a systems engineer, both taught at the University of Northern Nicaragua until the Ortega government shut it down in April. It was one of 26 universities that closed because Ortega accused them of being centers of revolt, or failing to register or pay special taxes to the government, which has feuded with the Roman Catholic church, as well. The couple lives in the northern city of Somoto, where Isabel Lazo now works for a European-backed NGO. Ortega's government has outlawed or closed more than 3,000 civic groups and NGOs.

In May, the government ordered the Nicaraguan Red Cross shut down, accusing it of "attacks on peace and stability" during anti-government demonstrations in 2018. The local Red Cross says it just helped treat injured protesters. Lazo said Thursday she is worried that it's only a matter of time for the group where she now works.


"This will be ending soon," she said dispiritedly. The couple is now awaiting a decision on a U.S. application for "humanitarian parole," a program under which up to 30,000 people are being allowed each month to enter the U.S. from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua and Venezuela. Until then, there are few prospects for them, even though they are among Nicaragua's educated elite.

"We were left without jobs from one day to the next," Lazo said. "And even though we have graduate degrees and master's degrees, we haven't found decent jobs. You can kill yourself studying here and it's worth nothing." □



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Farmers Market at the Ostrich Farm

Every first Sunday of the month the Ostrich Farm organized and facilitate the largest farmers market on the island. Everything sold during the farmers market are locally crafted, produced and grown. Locally artisans and farmers gather at the farmers market to showcase proudly their products.

You can find the best artisan bread & pastries, hot sauces, jams, cooking sauces, fresh egg and honey that comes from small beekeepers, vegetarian snacks from locally sourced beans call Dubaru.

Then you have the very talented local artisans that share their unique and one-of-a-kind art such as driftwood paintings, high quality jewelry, baby clothing, knitting products, ceramic mugs/cups and plates, Calabash art, organic soap and cosmetic and so much more!

The Farmer's market is held under a large, covered area so you can shop comfortably in the shade.

The restaurant in the premises serves delicious local lunches and fresh fish when available. Ice cold local beer, smoothies, fresh fruit shakes and not to be missed serves the best shaved ice on the island!

And the Ostrich tours is of course offered as well.

For everybody young and old here is something to do, shop, relax and enjoy a great family outing and most of all come and support the local artisans and farmers every first Sunday of the month from 10:00 to 14:00, Matividiri 57, follow our facebookpage or Instagram @arubaostrichfarm and be notified for each upcoming farmers market. □



Aruba's Bocas: home to the rarest fossil reefs on the planet!

(Oranjestad)—If you've been to the northern coast of Aruba already, you've probably noticed how the ground differs entirely from the sandy beaches on the southern part of the island. These hard surfaces, with sharp bumps and holes are actually fossilized coral reefs, of which its growth and changes can be traced back to the last glacial period.

On May 30 2023, geoscientists, Dr. Patrick Boyden

from the Marum research faculty at the University of Bremen, Prof. dr. Alessio Rovere from the Ca' Foscari University of Venice and Prof. dr. Gianfranco Scicchitano, from the University of Bari Aldo Moro, presented their research on these fossilized coral reefs at the University of Aruba. Their focus for their research included studying the health and formation patterns of these coral reefs, and to investigate how these reefs have responded and can

respond to fluctuating sea levels or extreme weather, like hurricanes and tsunamis.

Through underwater and land surveillance, and 3D models of the reefs, they were able to narrow down when these formations started to take place. They were also able to track the fluctuation of sea levels during the past hundred or even thousands of years, and the effects that this fluctuation has had on the coral reefs of the windward side of Aruba.

These findings can certainly put things into perspective. The ground on which we have walked many times in the northern part of the island hold such rich history, history that dates back to a time that most of us cannot even imagine. As the



scientists themselves have pointed out, these fossilized reefs on the windward side are truly an incredible and rare remnant of geological history, as they provide a clear view of how these reefs have formed.

This research is also important for the future of coral reefs on the island. By studying rising sea lev-

els and climate impact on these coral reefs, we are able to take concrete action in protecting and preserving our coral reefs. So, if you are ever visiting one of the bocas or driving along the northern part of the island, please be conscious to help protect our natural historical remnant. Oh, and wear (coral-friendly) sunscreen! □





Playa Linda's pride in its hospitality professionals

Palm Beach - Playa Linda Beach Resort held its annual "Thanksgiving" to express appreciation for the people who share their talent, time and tremendous ability for hospitality at this family-orientated timeshare. A total of sixteen Playa Linda associates are celebrating a work anniversary this year.

Housekeepers are particularly well represented among the 2023 honorees, but all are proven, dedicated hospitality professionals who truly help shape the unforgettable Playa Linda experience for the resort's members and guests.

The positive impact made by Playa Linda associates is undeniable, and is easily apparent among those celebrating a work anniversary. Leading the way is Executive Housekeeper Ingrid Todd who marked an impressive 40 years with the popular, Palm Beach-based timeshare. But similarly impressive are Marlyn Tromp, with the Accounting Department, whose contributions have been made over a 35-year-long career, and Felicita Cuesta-Colon, with Housekeeping, who marks 20 years with the Playa Linda.

During the recent celebration, gratitude was also expressed for the contributions of 10-year associates, including Housekeeping's Luz Marina Duran, Yahaira Jimenez and Shirley Maduro, as well as Loss Prevention's Andres Trujillo and Front Office's Diego Vasquez. Also recognized were 5-year associates, Housekeeping's Belsy Barroso, Pauline Carridice, Amita Derosier, Marie Freda Francois, Claire Smith and Alejandra Taveras, Engineering's Luis Mejia and Loss Prevention's Luis Fuentes.

A celebratory lunch lauding all Playa Linda's associates marking a work anniversary was held, appropriately, on Thanksgiving last week. Playa Linda General Manager Peter van Grinsven, Operations Director Sulaika Kelly and Finance Director Ann Brinkman were present to honor all employees whose tremendous efforts result in the daily delivery of outstanding vacations at the Playa Linda Beach Resort.

Playa Linda Beach Resort Aruba sits beachside on world famous Palm Beach, and at the center of the island's best selection of dining, shopping and activity options. Its 217 spacious suites -- featuring ten different suite categories, each with fully-equipped kitchens -- and resort amenities including on-property laundry facilities, two pools, two Jacuzzis, concierge services, daily activity program and varied dining and shopping options, create an upscale, community-centered environment for families, couples and friend groups seeking Aruba hospitality at its finest. □



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Aruba Tourism Authority honors loyal visitors at Hilton Caribbean Resort & Casino!

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing an Emerald Ambassador of Aruba. This remarkable Ambassador was respectively honored with a certificate acknowledging her years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honor certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

The three honoring levels are as follows:

Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honoree was:

Emerald Ambassador Mrs. Arlene Campeau from Connecticut, United States

Ms. Kimberley Richardson representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of the Hilton Caribbean Resort & Casino presented the Emerald Ambassador-certificate to the honoree, presented her with gifts, and also thanked her for choosing Aruba as her favorite vacation destination, as her home away from home.

Top reasons for returning to Aruba, provided by Mrs. Campeau were:
"Aruba's warm and friendly people who always treated me like family"
Aruba's sunshine and great weather
"So many restaurants to choose from"
"All the great people I have met throughout the years"
Aruba's safety

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honoree for her continued visits to the "One Happy Island".



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Episode LXXXI – 81 - Caquetian inspired designs

Native Americans of Aruba, from Caquetian original stock, were expert Ceramists and Potters. Their mastering of this art as a cult was cosmologically inspired, expressed throughout their techniques. This heritage was transmitted from generation to generation till the beginning of the 20th century.

Etnia Nativa presents an anthropological approach to what we can call ancient Aruban natural relations using art in order to understand the indigenous aesthetic creation of island native expressions. It values the way in which the indigenous universe and its aesthetic production have been recorded throughout history, generating new artistic products. It discusses indigenous aesthetic conceptions, their connection to the natural environment, and how they influenced the processes of cultural interaction with Europeans. Finally, it focuses on ceramics as a key resource for



the indigenous aesthetic expression, as a way of anthropological recovery of the precolonial creative production in connection with contemporary art inspired on native motives.

Aruba conserves an indigenous patrimonial legacy with strong aesthetic values.

The encounter of indigenous societies with the conquerors, amazed by the reality of a New World, had a convergence in a cultural confrontation where aesthetic and symbolic factors were part of it. Flowing to our time through history and archeology, to recover objects of knowledge and as components of new processes of artistic creation and a sense of belonging to an unique and separate group of people that has survived ages of suppression while using this same principals to claim and obtain a special status within the Dutch kingdom.

From the anthropology of Art the artist from Etnia Nativa seeks inspiration in the Aruban heritage, thus offering a vision of ideals that guard and mobilize aesthetic creation in relation to the universe where it is expressed and worked on.

A work of art comes from the conception and objectification of ideas by its creator, the artist capable of producing art as a human being and social being, he will never be able to separate himself from said condition awarded from the moment he is born and begins to relate with his environment and other individuals. Each work he produces is affected by his environment.

Those who participate in our cultural and interactive tour learn the management of the anthropological, historical and aesthetic categories. They also obtain knowledge of anthropology, art history and archeology of both Aruba and the Caribbean and of America as a whole. They also obtain information concerning recent research of the region, and a generalized comparative vision of indigenous cultures, iconography and aesthetic elements of island societies.

To get to know a little more regarding Aruba and its cultural origins, we highly recommend you to book your participation in our cultural encounter session. A mind opening revelation and entertaining island experience. Mail us at etnianaativa03@gmail.com. Our facilities and activities take place close to high rise hotels. □



Article by: Etnia Nativa

Whatsapp us +297 592 2702 and book your Aruban experience

Etnia Nativa is close to the high rise hotels



Don't forget to visit Aruba's famous Red Anchor

At the south east coast of the island, standing alone on a windswept and barren land stands a popular Aruba landmark – a large anchor. It overlooks the sea just beyond, watching over the shipping lanes. It stands there in memory and in honor of all seamen who have lost their life at sea.

Where to Find the Anchor?

The anchor is a “must see” landmark when you visit Aruba. It is among the most photographed historical landmarks for the island. You want to make sure you add this stop on your itinerary when your visiting the south coast of Aruba. The bright red anchor against the backdrop of the deep blue Caribbean sea and the azure blue skies, make a great backdrop for your vacation pictures.

The anchor is located at the entrance to Gate 6 to the former Lago Colony. It is on the outskirts of Seroe Colorado, on the south east point of the island at the “T” junction to Baby Beach.

Depending on where you are staying on the island, follow the signs that indicate the way to Baby Beach. Once you reach the T-junction, it will be right in front of you.

About the Anchor

Size
It will be hard to miss the anchor, it's huge! The anchor that weighs 21,772 kilos, is approximately 10 feet 6 inches wide and 15 feet, 6 inches tall.

On the anchor there are some numbers. The 4112 and 4115, which are believed to be the serial numbers that refer to the “fluke” or horizontal and vertical parts of the anchor, respectively. The number 21772K refers to the weight of the anchor in kilos.

This type of anchor was manufactured by Hoesch Dortmund Horde, at a foundry located in Germany.

Where did the Anchor Come From?

There are a number of stories as to the origins of the anchor, which one do you think it was? (Unfortunately the mystery has never been solved, so your imagination can pick which one you think it might be!)

Story 1:

“According to Mr. Manuel M. Curiel, an ex-Lago Tug Captain, a fully laden VLCC (Very Large Crude Carrier) was seeking a mooring at the 15-mile anchorage, known as Bara, on the southern part of



The Red Anchor situated at the entrance of former Lago Colony in San Nicolas

the island. This is the usual shallow mooring location for ships awaiting orders, etc. The weather was rough with strong current. The normal procedure is that they would walk out three shackles (about 90 feet) until the anchor touches the bottom while the chain must rest on the bottom. Subsequently, they will walk out some extra shackles and when the ship starts to swing or lean on one side, the anchor is properly set. Because of the rough weather, unfortunately they did not get the time to walk out the extra tackles and because of the tension exerted on the winch, it broke, and they lost the anchor and its chain.”

Story 2:

“Mr. Curiel also said that at one time a small tanker with a Korean crew, while lifting their anchor also lifted another anchor near the inner harbor. When the ship asked for assistance, he went with his tugboat along with a barge, to help. But eventually they had to cut the chain and let the anchor go to the bottom because they could not untangle them.”

How Did The Anchor Become a Landmark?

Sometime between 1980 and 1985, three gentlemen (Mr. Wim Martinus – the Harbormaster of Aruba;

Mr. August Genser – the ex-Division Superintendent of Lago's Laboratory; and Mr. Willie Davis – Owner of Filtec at Zeewijk in San Nicolas), were having a conversation with Mr. Charlie Brouns Jr. at his famous Charlie's Bar and Restaurant in San Nicolas. Charlie, who was a visionary and had dreams for developing the San Nicolas area, told these gentlemen that he would like to come up with something innovative for the San Nicolas area to draw tourism to the area.

The “anchor”, which at that time was being stored at the Oranjestad harbor, was suggested as an option. Charlie liked the idea! He then contacted the President of Lago for permission to acquire the anchor. He was granted permission and the anchor was then relocated to its present location and dedicated “To All Seamen” on the occasion of the closing of the Lago Oil Refinery on March 31, 1985.

Through the Years

Through the years the Anchor was slowly weathering from the wind and salt. As time passed, sadly the origin and purpose of the anchor slowly faded away from people's memories.

After Charles Brouns Jr died on September 15, 2004, his friend Mr. Sam

Speziale, requested assistance from the management of Valero Aruba Refinery to help maintain the monument. The Valero Aruba Refinery, graciously sandblasted and painted the anchor and poured a concrete pad around it. On April 17, 2005, the anchor monument was rededicated “To All Seamen” in a formal ceremony in memory of Charles Brouns Jr.

Today, the anchor stands both as memorial to all seamen who have lost their lives at sea, but also as a silent reminder that Seroe Colorado is part of San Nicolas and that San Nicolas is still a vibrant and important part of the island of Aruba.

The Best Time to Visit

When your planning your visit to the south end of the island, you will want to include in your itinerary the many things to see and do there. The anchor will be just one of these stops, (keep an eye out for our future editions, we publish our recommendations!).

With that being said, I have to say, if you enjoy catching a sunrise, the anchor is one of the best places on the island to catch the sunrise. But in reality, anytime is a good time to visit, depending on your personal schedule. □

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 38 Hold up
 - 40 Boom type
 - 6 Studies intensely
 - 42 Draw out
 - 11 Earthy color
 - 43 Underway
 - 12 Indian coin
 - 44 Quite serious
 - 13 Oscar winner
 - 45 Daily events

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Yesterday's answer

- DOWN**
- 1 Ordinary
 - 2 Glacial period
 - 3 Francis Ford Coppola film
 - 4 Legal matter
 - 5 Electra's brother
 - 6 Coffee add-in
 - 7 Toddy base
 - 8 Francis Ford Coppola film
 - 9 Tin and titanium
 - 10 Handled
 - 17 Made of clay
 - 23 Golf need
 - 24 Completely
 - 26 Was blue
 - 27 Black suit
 - 28 City on the Rio Grande
 - 30 Newtonian concern
 - 31 Forces, as payment
 - 33 "Who Says" singer
 - 39 Tennis feat
 - 41 One — kind

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12
13	14
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19	.	.	20	.	.	.	21	.	.
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27	28	.	.	29	.	.	30	31	.
32	.	.	33	.	.	.	34	.	.
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42	43	.	.	.
44	45	.	.	.

12-1

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's. X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

12-1 CRYPTOQUOTE

SJVQAY JT VCQ Z TAZTCV:

JQ`T Z XARAHYZQJCV.

— ZVZBJIZ BJTWYZ
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: WHEN PEOPLES CARE FOR YOU AND CRY FOR YOU. THEY CAN STRAIGHTEN OUT YOUR SOUL. — LANGSTON HUGHES

Brazilian city enacts an ordinance that was secretly written by ChatGPT

By Diane Jeantet and Mauricio Savarese
Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — City lawmakers in Brazil have enacted what appears to be the nation's first legislation written entirely by artificial intelligence — even if they didn't know it at the time.

The experimental ordinance was passed in October in the southern city of Porto Alegre and city councilman Ramiro Rosário revealed this week that it was written by a chatbot, sparking objections and raising questions about the role of artificial intelligence in public policy.

Rosário told The Associated Press that he asked OpenAI's chatbot ChatGPT to craft a proposal to prevent the city from charging taxpayers to replace water consumption meters if they are stolen. He then presented it to his 35 peers on the council without making a single change or even letting them know about its unprecedented origin.

"If I had revealed it before, the proposal certainly wouldn't even have been



The logo for OpenAI, the maker of ChatGPT, appears on a mobile phone, in New York, Jan. 31, 2023.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew, File)

taken to a vote," Rosário told the AP by phone on Thursday. The 36-member council approved it unanimously and the ordinance went into effect on Nov. 23.

"It would be unfair to the population to run the risk of the project not being approved simply because it was written by artificial intelligence," he added.

The arrival of ChatGPT on the marketplace just a year ago has sparked a global debate on the impacts of potentially revolutionary AI-powered chatbots. While some see it as a promising tool, it has also caused con-

cerns and anxiety about the unintended or undesired impacts of a machine handling tasks currently performed by humans.

Porto Alegre, with a population of 1.3 million, is the second-largest city in Brazil's south. The city's council president, Hamilton Sossmeier, found out that Rosário had enlisted ChatGPT to write the proposal when the councilman bragged about the achievement on social media on Wednesday. Sossmeier initially told local media he thought it was a "dangerous precedent." □

Facebook parent Meta sues the FTC claiming 'unconstitutional authority' in child privacy case

Associated Press

MENLO PARK, Calif. (AP)

— The parent company of Instagram and Facebook has sued the Federal Trade Commission in an attempt to stop the agency from reopening a 2020 privacy settlement with the company that would prohibit it from profiting from data it collects on users under 18. In a lawsuit filed late Wednesday in federal court in Washington, D.C.,



The Meta logo is seen at the Vivattech show in Paris, France, June 14, 2023.

(AP Photo/Thibault Camus, File)

Meta Platforms Inc. said it is challenging "the structurally unconstitutional authority exercised by the FTC" in reopening the privacy agreement.

"Meta respectfully requests that this Court declare that certain fundamental aspects of the Commission's structure violate the U.S. Constitution, and that these violations render unlawful the FTC Proceeding against Meta," the company says in its complaint.

The dispute stems from a 2020 consent agreement Meta made with the FTC that also had the social media giant pay a record \$5 billion fine over privacy violations. □

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Some OPEC+ members will cut the oil that they send to the world to try to boost prices

By Ellen Knickmeyer and Courtney Bonnell

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — The OPEC oil cartel led by Saudi Arabia and allied producers including Russia made another big swipe at propping up lagging crude prices Thursday, expanding some output cuts into next year and bringing up-and-coming oil supplier Brazil into the fold. Lower oil prices have been a good thing for U.S. drivers, who have been able to fill their gas tanks for less money in recent months. But it's bad news for OPEC+ countries whose oil income bolsters their economies and who have faced setbacks in pushing prices higher despite initial fears that the Israel-Hamas war could affect oil flows.

The OPEC+ oil ministers came out of an online meeting with more than 2 million barrels per day in voluntary cuts through the first three months of next year and declared that Brazil would join the bloc in January, bringing one of the world's fastest-growing oil producers into an alliance that is trying to rein in global supply.

However, sweeping cutbacks from OPEC+ and individual member countries since October 2022 have not made lasting changes to oil prices because of concerns about too much crude circulating in a weakening global economy, which could weigh on the thirst for oil for travel and industry.

The market even shrugged off the new move, though it amounts to roughly 2% of global supply.

Jorge Leon, senior vice president of oil market research for Rystad Energy, called it a "bit of disappointing meeting" for OPEC+ and a "bittersweet" one for Saudi Arabia in particular because it couldn't convince the whole group to commit to production cuts.

The market also was let down, because it "was likely expecting a deal covering the first half of next year," he said.



The logo of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is seen outside of OPEC's headquarters in Vienna, Austria, Thursday, March 3, 2022.

(AP Photo/Lisa Leutner, file)

Saudi Arabia led the deepening voluntary cuts Thursday, extending its reduction of 1 million barrels per day through March. It was followed by Russia, which is cutting 500,000 barrels per day of crude and refined oil products, and then Iraq, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Kazakhstan, Algeria and Oman with smaller amounts.

Russia wants higher oil prices to boost the main way it fills its war chest against Ukraine, while the Saudis have to earn nearly \$86 per barrel to meet their planned spending goals, according to the latest estimate from the International Monetary Fund.

Saudi Arabia is trying to fund an ambitious overhaul of the kingdom's economy, reduce its dependence on oil

and create jobs for a young population.

But the international benchmark Brent crude has stayed in the low- to mid-\$80 range in recent weeks and fell more than 2% to \$80.91 a barrel following the meeting. U.S. crude also dropped 2.5% to \$75.90.

The expanded cuts were expected to keep crude prices in the same range of \$80 to \$85 a barrel for the first half of the year, Leon said.

Lower oil prices have allowed U.S. gas prices to fall or stay steady since Sept. 19, AAA said. Gas is averaging just below \$3.25 a gallon, the motor club said, down about 7% from a month ago. But that's still higher than when President Joe Biden took office in January 2021, when prices were averaging

about \$2.40 a gallon. High inflation has been a political challenge for Biden going into the 2024 election, prompting him to say this week that efforts to improve supply chains and reduce price pressures are a priority.

"President Biden is focused on prices for American consumers, which have been coming down steadily," the White House said in a statement Thursday after the OPEC+ meeting.

U.S. oil production has hit records as OPEC+ has cut back, with producers outside the group expected to keep leading global growth in oil supply next year, the International Energy Agency said.

For instance, daily production in the U.S. averaged 13 million barrels a day in August, an increase of more than 1 million barrels from a year ago, according to the latest monthly figures from the U.S. Energy Information Administration. □



Editor

Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.
Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668
Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V.
Acc. #23951903
RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

Editors

Pilar Flores
Richard Brooks
Angenette Figuereo

Sales

Mark Gomes
Sulaika Croes

Classifieds

classified@cspnv.com

Distribution and Collection

accounting@bondia.com

Social / Website

Juan Luis Pinto

Weststraat 22
T: 582-7800
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W: www.arubatoday.com
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'Killers of the Flower Moon' named best film of 2023 by New York film critics

By Jake Coyle

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Martin Scorsese's "Killers of the Flower Moon" has been named the best film of the year by the New York Film Critics Circle.

It's the third time that Scorsese has been given the best film award from his hometown's critics, who named 1990's "GoodFellas" their top movie, as well as 2019's "The Irishman." On Thursday, the group also awarded Lily Gladstone, who stars alongside Leonardo DiCaprio in "Killers of the Flower Moon," best actress.

"Killers of the Flower Moon," a \$200 million Apple Studios production based on David Grann's nonfiction best-seller, chronicles the Osage murders of the 1920s.

"Oppenheimer," Christopher Nolan's blockbuster drama about J. Robert Oppenheimer and the Man-



This image released by Apple TV+ shows Lily Gladstone, left, and Leonardo DiCaprio in a scene from "Killers of the Flower Moon."

(Melinda Sue Gordon/Apple TV+ via AP)

hattan Project, picked up several awards: best director for Nolan and best cinematography, by Hoyte van Hoytema.

The New York Film Critics Circle, founded in 1935, is the oldest critics group in the country. The awards will be handed out at a din-

ner on Jan. 3. Last year, the critics named Todd Field's "Tár" the best film of 2022. Here's a full list of their picks: Best Film: "Killers of the

Flower Moon"

Best Director: Christopher Nolan, "Oppenheimer"

Best Actress: Lily Gladstone, "Killers of the Flower Moon"

Best Actor: Franz Rogowski, "Passages"

Best International Film: "Anatomy of a Fall"

Best Supporting Actress: Da'Vine Joy Randolph, "The Holdovers"

Best Supporting Actor: Charles Melton, "May December"

Best Screenplay: "May December"

Best Non-Fiction Film: "Menus-Plaisirs — Les Trois-gros"

Best Cinematography: Hoyte van Hoytema, "Oppenheimer"

Best First Film: "Past Lives"

Best Animated Film: "The Boy and the Heron"

Special Award: Karen Cooper, director of the Film Forum, the standard-bearing New York arthouse cinema. □

Judge extends pause on John Oates' sale of stake in business with Daryl Hall as arbitration proceeds



Daryl Hall, left, and John Oates, recipients of BMI Icons awards, pose together before the 56th annual BMI Pop Awards in Beverly Hills, Calif., on May 20, 2008.

(AP Photo/Chris Pizzello, File)

By Jonathan Mattise

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — A judge sided with Daryl Hall on Thursday in his request to keep John Oates temporarily blocked from selling his potentially lucrative share of the Hall & Oates duo's joint venture without his longtime partner's per-

mission.

Chancellor Russell Perkins in Nashville extended his pause on the sale of Oates' share of Whole Oats Enterprises LLP to Primary Wave IP Investment Management LLC while the music duo moves through the early stages of arbitration. The temporary injunction

in the lawsuit filed by Hall blocks Oates from selling until an arbitrator weighs in, or until Feb. 17.

The joint venture in question includes Hall & Oates trademarks, personal name and likeness rights, record royalty income and website and social media assets, according to a court declaration by Hall, who has called Oates' planned sale the "ultimate partnership betrayal."

At a hearing Thursday, Christine Lepera, an attorney for Hall, said she hasn't heard anything from Oates' legal team indicating that there's some urgency in closing the deal.

"You cannot sell half of a partnership to a third party without the other party's consent, and that's just intuitively correct," Lepera said.

An attorney for Oates, Tim Warnock, said Hall's claims that Oates went behind his back are untrue.

"Mr. Oates proceeded exactly as he was allowed to

proceed," Warnock said, pointing the judge to their joint business agreement, which remains under seal in the case. "Mr. Hall could have done the exact same thing himself."

The hearing also drew attention to Hall's claims in his declaration — that Oates blindsided and betrayed him, that their relationship and his trust in his musical partner have deteriorated, and that Oates timed the sale when Hall was about to go on tour to maximize the harm to him. Neither Hall nor Oates attended Thursday's hearing.

Warnock said some of the "salacious" allegations in Hall's declaration have nothing to do with what was being discussed in court Thursday.

"Maybe he wanted publicity, maybe he wanted to interfere with Mr. Oates' business relationships," Warnock said. "We won't know the answer to that today. We will know the answer to that at some point and

there will be consequences about that."

Lepera replied that Hall had to submit an affidavit to support why the judge should keep temporarily blocking the deal.

"That's the reason we did that, and not for publicity," Lepera said.

Artists have been fetching giant sums of money in recent years in selling their music catalogs. Oates would no doubt receive a large amount, given the massive run of hits the duo produced in the 1970s and '80s, including "Maneater," "Rich Girl" "Kiss on My List" and "I Can't Go for That (No Can Do)."

The judge issued a temporary restraining order on Nov. 16, the same day Hall filed his lawsuit, writing that Oates and others involved in his trust can't move to close the sale of their share until an arbitrator weighs in on the deal, though that kind of order typically expires within 15 days without an extension. □

Bills linebacker Von Miller facing arrest for assaulting a pregnant woman, Dallas police say

Associated Press

DALLAS (AP) — Police in Dallas have issued an arrest warrant for Buffalo Bills linebacker Von Miller for allegedly assaulting a pregnant woman. According to the police report, a preliminary investigation of a “major disturbance” at a home on Wednesday determined that Miller, 34, and the victim got into a verbal argument. The report says the suspect became “visibly angry” when the woman left the room, went into the office in their apartment and slammed the door behind her. It says Miller then told her to leave and, when she tried to retrieve her laptop and cell phone, Miller began pushing her, continuing to tell her to “get out.” She yelled “Stop. I’m pregnant” repeatedly, according to the report, and when the pushing caused her to fall into a chair, Miller



Buffalo Bills linebacker Von Miller (40) rushes during an NFL football game against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Thursday, Oct. 26, 2023, in Orchard Park, N.Y.

(AP Photo/Gary McCullough, File)

put one hand on her neck and held it for 3 to 5 seconds. The report says Miller threw her laptop on the floor and stomped on it,

pulled a chunk of her hair out and threw her on the couch and put both hands around her neck. She told police she recorded some

of the attack and, when she threatened to call police, he left.

The victim was treated for minor injuries and an ar-

rest warrant was issued for Miller. The Bills, who have a bye this week, issued a statement Thursday acknowledging that they are aware of the incident and “are in the process of gathering more information.” The team said it would have no further comment at this point.

Miller, selected No. 2 overall by the Denver Broncos in the 2011 NFL draft, is an eight-time Pro Bowl selection and three-time first-team All-Pro selection.

Miller, who starred at Texas A&M and was a two-time first-team All-American, has played on two Super Bowl winners and was the MVP of the 2015 game with the Broncos. He won a second title in 2021 as a member of the Los Angeles Rams.

When he was traded by the Broncos, he held the franchise record for career sacks with 110.5. □

West Ham, Brighton advance in the Europa League. Atalanta makes round of 16

By Karel Janicek

Associated Press

(AP) - Tomáš Souček struck late again to help West Ham beat TSC Bačka Topola 1-0 and advance to the knockout stage of the Europa League on Thursday. The midfielder met Maxwell Cornet’s cross at the far post to volley home the winner in the 89th minute in Serbia.

Souček, who has scored in five straight games, had snatched a 2-1 victory for West Ham against Burnley with a stoppage-time winner Saturday in the Premier League.

West Ham is tied atop Group A with Germany’s Freiburg, which routed Olympiacos 5-0. Michael Gregoritsch had a hat trick by the 36th minute. Kiliann Sildillia and Ritsu Doan also scored. The winners both have 12 points.

The Hammers need only a point against Freiburg on Dec. 14 in London to win the group and avoid a two-

legged playoff in February. Brighton advanced from Group B after João Pedro converted from the spot for a 1-0 win over 10-man AEK in Athens.

Pedro was fouled in the box before sending goalkeeper Cican Stankovic the wrong way for his fifth goal of the campaign. The hosts lost midfielder Mijat Gaćinović to a second yellow card in the 65th minute.

Brighton took a provisional group lead with 10 points with a game to go, leading Marseille — which hosts Ajax later Thursday — by two points. AEK remains on four points in third.

The eight group winners in Europe’s second-tier competition earn a direct place in the last 16 of the competition whereas finishing in second only gets a team a playoff against the clubs who drop into the Europa League as third-place finishers in Champions League groups.

Viktoria Plzeň remains the



West Ham’s Tomas Soucek, left, celebrates after scoring his side’s opening goal during the Europa League group A soccer match between FK TSC Backa Topola and West Ham United at the TSC Arena in Backa Topola, Serbia, Thursday, Nov. 30, 2023.

(AP Photo/Darko Vojinovic)

only team so far to be guaranteed first place in its group in the third-tier league. The Czechs won 1-0 at Ballkani to make it five wins from five in Group C.

Club Brugge thumped Besiktas 5-0 in Turkey to lead

Group D with 13 points. Bodo/Glimt trails by three after a 5-2 win over Lugano. A first-place finish earns a direct spot in the last 16, while finishing in second takes clubs into a playoff with third-place finishers in the Europa League. Atala-

nta advanced directly to the round of 16 despite 1-1 draw at home with Sporting Lisbon. Sporting substitute Marcus answered Gianluca Scamacca’s opening goal. Atalanta won Group D with 11 points. Sporting is second with eight. □

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No. 4 UConn heads to No. 5 Kansas for rare matchup of the past two national champions

By Dave Skretta
Associated Press

LAWRENCE, Kan. (AP) — Thousands of students were lounging inside Allen Fieldhouse by Wednesday afternoon, two full days before fifth-ranked Kansas was due to take the court again, dutifully announcing their presence every time someone barked out for roll call. Getting in line that early is what it takes to snag a prime seat for one of the biggest college basketball games of the regular season.

In a throwback to an increasingly bygone era, when high-profile show-downs were less often lured to neutral floors by TV and sponsorship dollars, the Jayhawks will get a visit from fourth-ranked UConn on Friday night. It will be only the fifth time in the past decade that the past two national champions have played, and only the second nonconference game on a campus.

"I'm telling you from this



UConn guard Cam Spencer (12) looks to shoot over New Hampshire forward Davide Poser (15) in the second half of an NCAA college basketball game, Monday, Nov. 27, 2023, in Storrs, Conn.

(AP Photo/Jessica Hill)

standpoint right now, playing the defending national champions that are on a roll right now, it's as big a game as I could ever remember in early December," Jayhawks coach Bill Self said Thursday.

"I'm not going to say it's the biggest game we've ever played. That's not fair to anyone," Self clarified, "and I don't think they would say it was either, be-

cause there's been a lot of big games when they were playing Villanova or whatever. But I think both teams would agree it's about as big as it can be on December 1."

There have been 13 previous games involving the past two national champs since 2000, and the Jayhawks and Huskies have been involved in five of them. Two came just last

year, when the Jayhawks split games with Big 12 rival Baylor, and three came in 2005, when UConn and Syracuse met twice in the regular season and again in the Big East Tournament. In fact, most games over the past two decades involved conference foes in the regular season or their league tournament. In two cases, the past two national champs met in the NCAA Tournament, when it was inevitable that the best would play the best. But a true nonconference game? The previous time that happened 2013, when Kentucky defeated Louisville.

More often, blueblood programs such as UConn and Kansas meet far from home. The Jayhawks beat No. 12 Kentucky in the Champions Classic in Chicago earlier this season, and split games against third-ranked Marquette and No. 10 Tennessee at the Maui Invitational. UConn has a game upcoming against No. 17 North Caroli-

na in the Jimmy V Classic at Madison Square Garden. So when these high-profile games are on campus, such as the Huskies and Jayhawks will be Friday night? You get students camping out for seats, even if it means starting their vigil more than 48 hours before tipoff.

"Seeing them camp out pretty much after the last game, it's just like fuel to our fire," Kansas guard Elmarko Jackson said. "It just makes us want to get out there even harder, you know? When the lights turn on, we're just going to go super hard."

Indeed, on-campus games carry with them a different weight and feel for players. UConn guard Tristen Newton admitted that "taking the joy of winning out of somebody else's team is just a great feeling," and Kansas center Hunter Dickinson said that he thinks about — on an almost daily basis — the sterling record that the Jayhawks have compiled in the Phog. □

Charleston Southern basketball coach Barclay Radebaugh steps down after 19 seasons



Charleston Southern coach Barclay Radebaugh shouts to the team during the second half of an NCAA college basketball game against Ohio State, Nov. 10, 2022, in Columbus, Ohio.

(AP Photo/Jay LaPefe, File)

Associated Press
NORTH CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP) — Charleston Southern men's basketball coach Barclay Radebaugh is stepping down in his 19th season after his team got off a 2-5 start.

The school's vice president of intercollegiate athletics Jeff Barber said he and Radebaugh talked after Tuesday night's 81-52 loss to area rival Citadel and "mutually agreed that in the best interest of our basketball program, new leadership is needed and that now is

the right time to begin that process."

Associate head coach and former Charleston Southern player Saah Nimley will serve as interim coach for the rest of the season, the school said.

Radebaugh was hired before the 2005-06 season and became the longest-tenured coach in the Big South Conference. He finishes with a record of 228-325. Radebaugh led the team to two winning seasons, 19-13 in 2012-13 and 19-12 in 2014-15. The Bucs

played in the NIT both those postseasons.

The program has struggled in recent years, going 21-69 since the 2020-21 season. Radebaugh, in a statement, thanked the school, its fans and the university's leadership.

He said his conversations with Barber and university president Keith Faulkner were "honest, professional and considerate."

Radebaugh encouraged the program's backers to continue supporting the team. □